

Population Status of Children (aged 0-17) in China in 2015 **Facts and Figures**

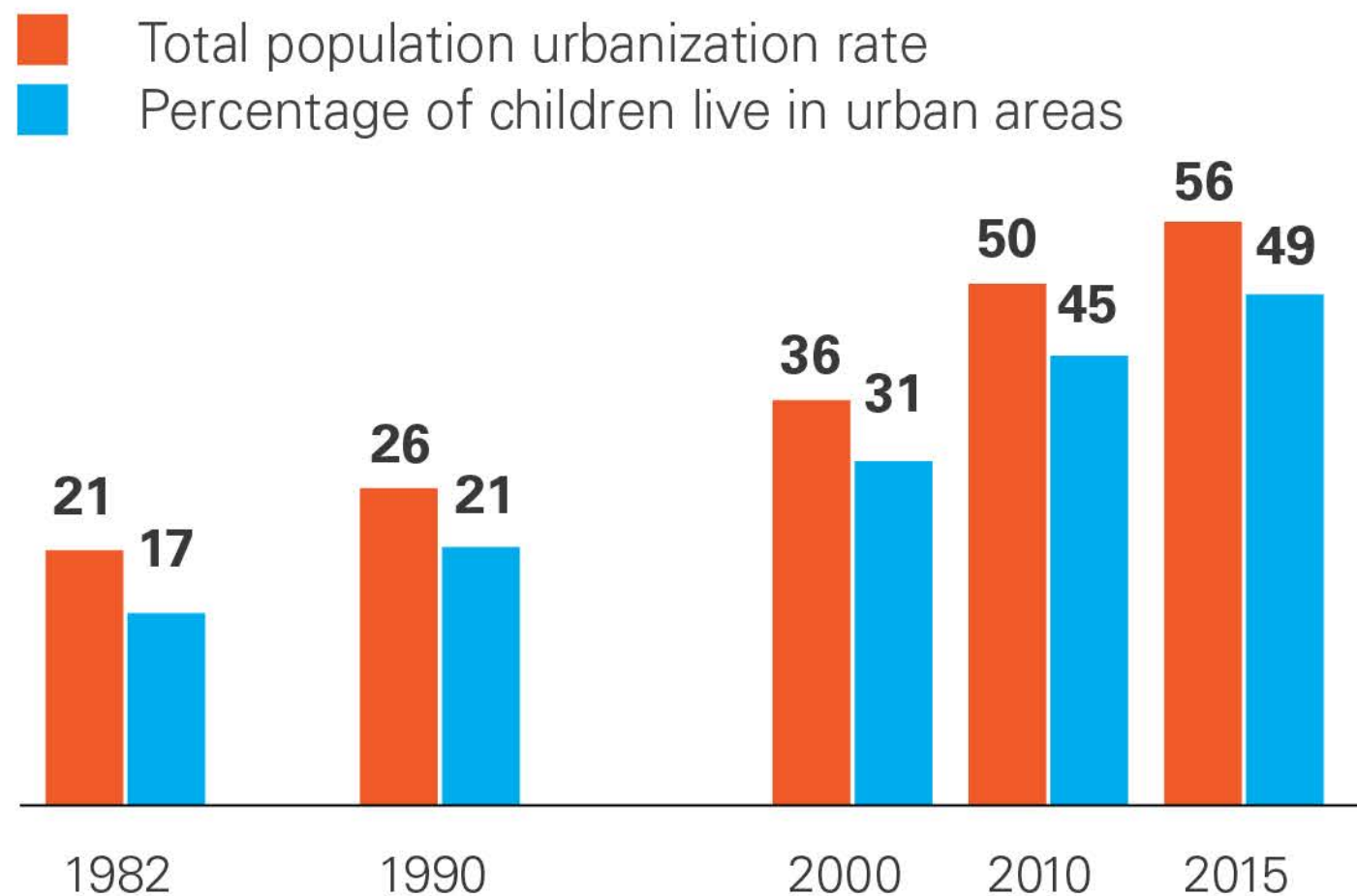


Data mainly comes from the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China, and from previous censuses and inter-census surveys. Currently, China conducts a national census every ten years and an inter-census population survey in between two censuses, with a sampling fraction of 1%.

The healthy development of children is the basis for sustainable human and social development. Censuses and population surveys are rich sources of data and information on children, reflecting the demographic changes over time and the key characteristics of sub-groups. Analysis of census data can enhance understanding the challenges faced by children and help inform evidence-based decision making to address these challenges.

Go to [http:// www.unicef.cn](http://www.unicef.cn) to download the full report for more information. This publication has been developed on the basis of research on the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey by Professor Duan Chengrong and Dr. Lv Lidan from Renmin University, with technical and financial support from the NBS/UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Data Project.

49% of children live in urban areas,
as compared to the total population
urbanization rate of **56%**



16% of children live in
poverty-stricken rural areas



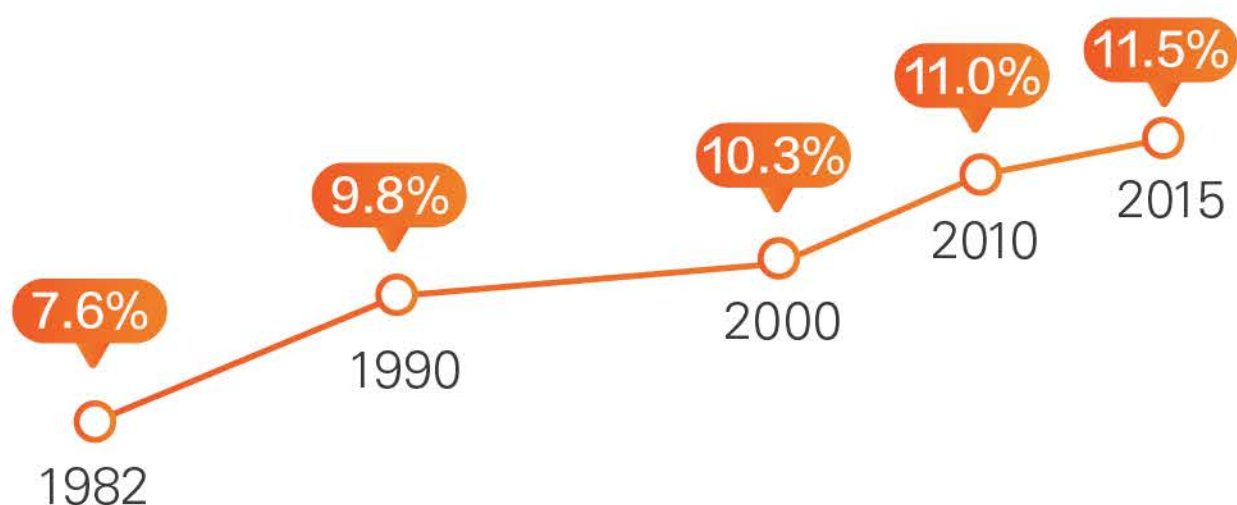
Corresponding to
44 million children



Children living in poverty-stricken rural areas face multiple challenges in health, education and child protection.

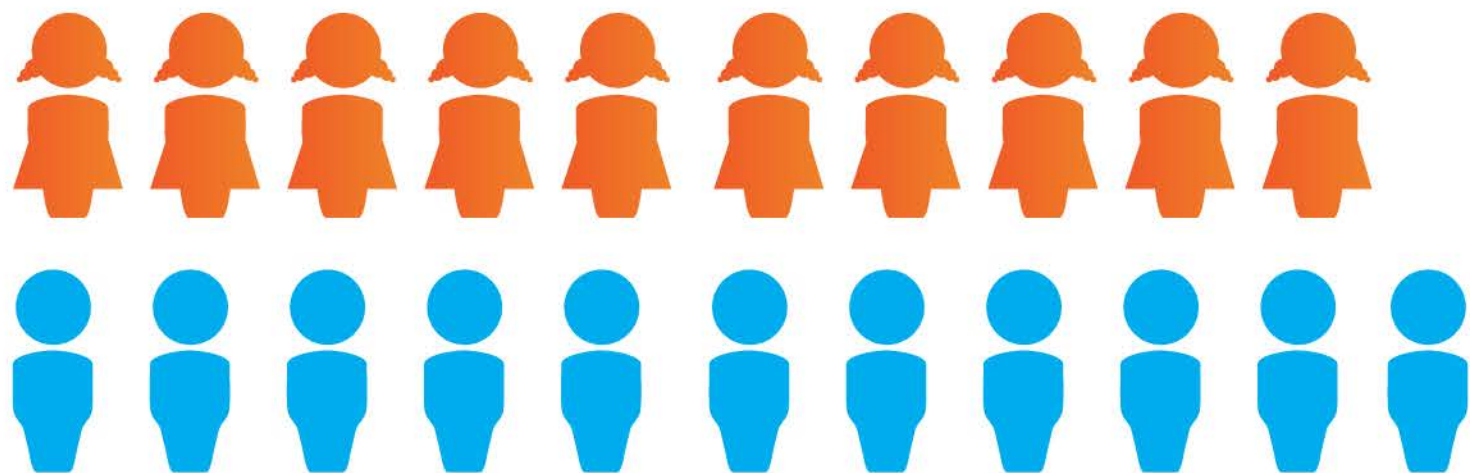
The population of ethnic minority children is **31.11 million**, and their proportion in the child population is increasing

45.3% of ethnic minority children live in poor rural areas



The development discrepancy between ethnic minority children and Han children is, to a large extent, a reflection of the urban/rural and regional disparities. This requires equitable and integrated development of urban and rural areas, and balanced development among regions.

In China, the sex ratio at birth is
113 boys to every 100 girls



Sex ratio at birth is generally recognized to be between 103–107 in the absence of an intervention



China is one of the countries with the most severely imbalanced sex ratio at birth (SRB) in the world.



Due to long-term SRB imbalance, there are 34 million fewer women than men in China.

103 million children are affected by migration

**Migrant children
34.26 million**

+

**Children left-behind
68.77 million**



4 out of every 10 children in China are directly affected by migration



Migrant children lose access to traditional and community support systems, and are confronted with difficulties and discrimination in terms of urban schooling, health care, social security and other aspects.



With one or both parents working away from home, it is difficult for children to receive emotional and learning support from their families, which can be detrimental to their physical, emotional and mental health.

3 out of every 10 children in rural areas are children left-behind

Children left-behind
68.77 million



40.51 million
live in rural areas

28.26 million
live in urban areas

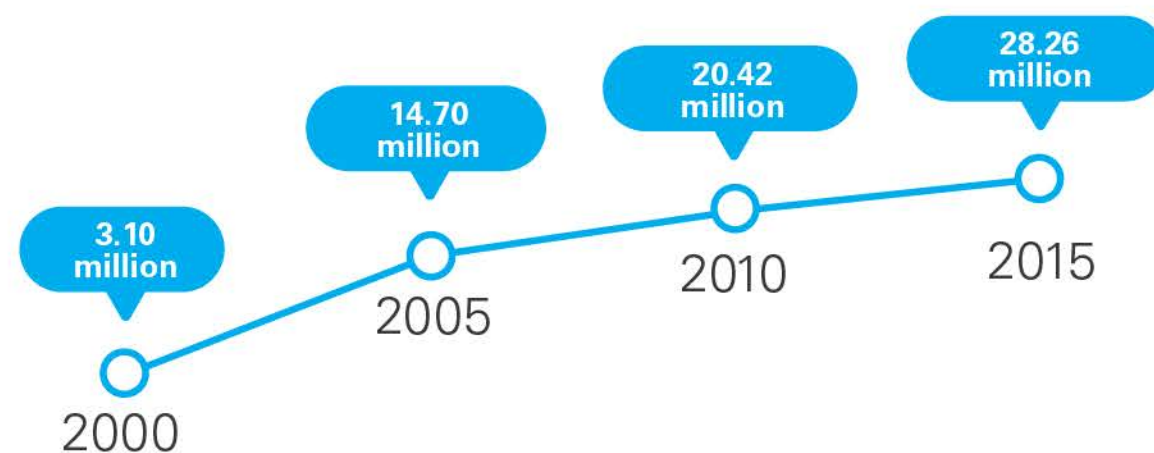
2 out of every 10 children in urban areas are migrant children

Migrant children
34.26 million



5.3 million
live in rural areas

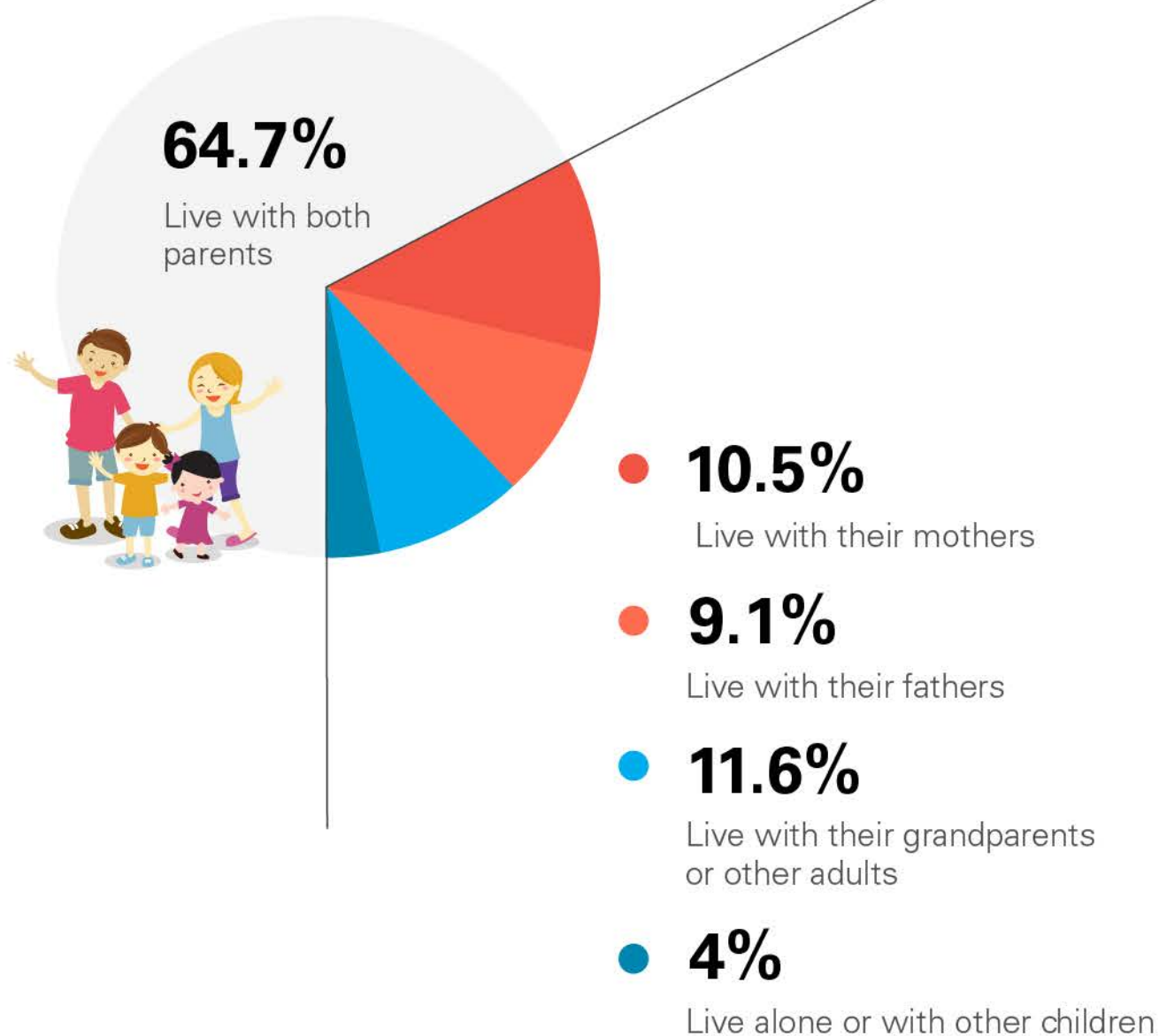
28.96 million
live in urban areas



The rapid increase in the number of left-behind children in urban areas calls for an increased policy focus on this sub-group by the Government.

Over **1/3** children nationwide do not live with both parents

This totals **95.6 million** children



▼ **92%** are children affected by migration



Rural children left-behind

40.51 million



Urban children left-behind

28.26 million



Migrant children not living with both parents

18.84 million

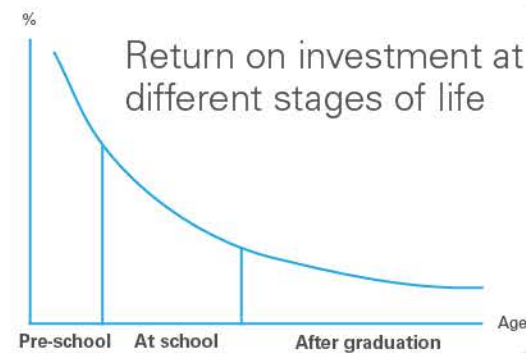
▼ **8%**
Children in a single-parent family
8 million



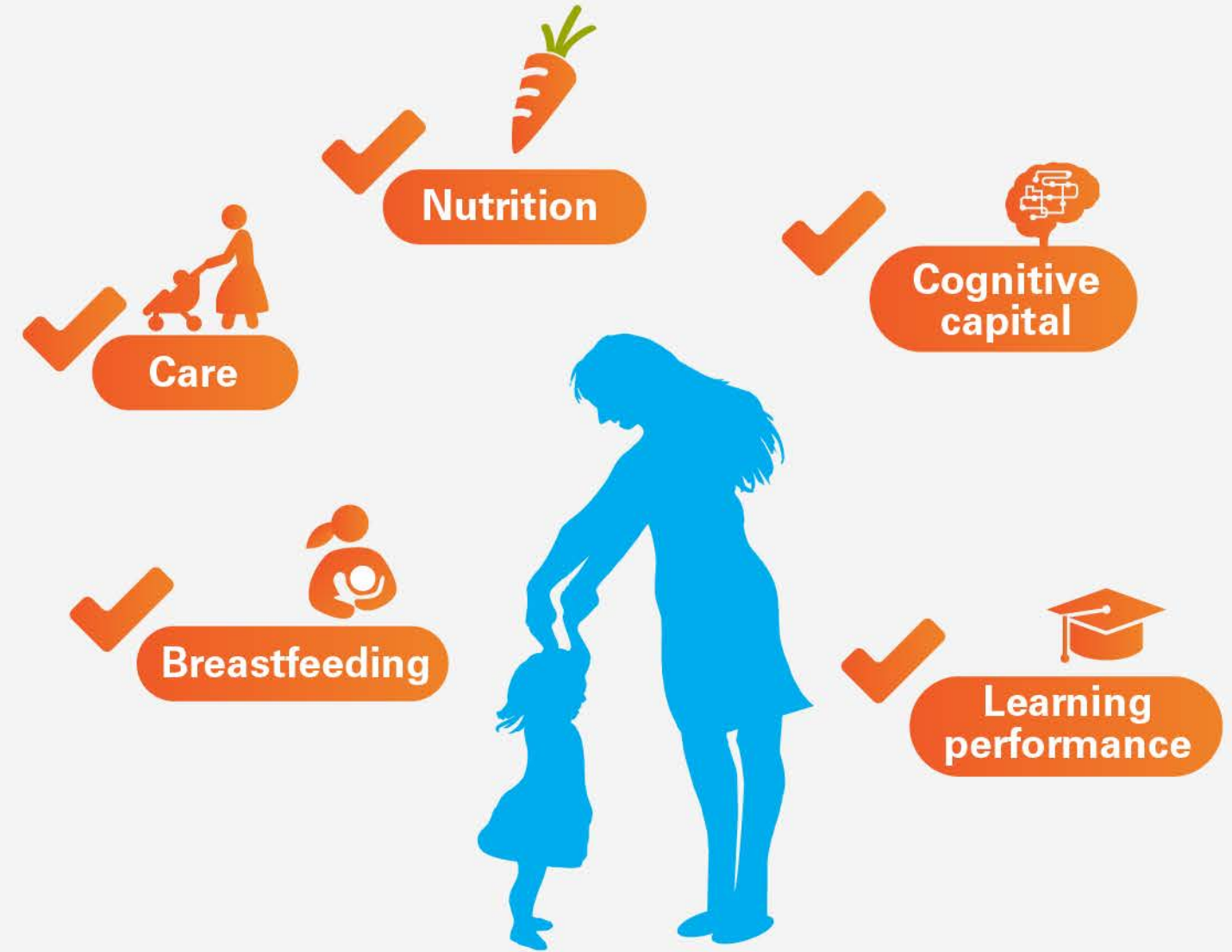
The lack of parental involvement can be detrimental to the growth and development of children. More attention needs to be given to children living alone, children living in single-parent families, children of migrant families, and children left-behind.

Over 1/4 children aged 0-2 years are taken care of by caregivers other than their mothers

Economists advocate for investing in early childhood development as the most cost-effective way to realize sustainable development.



The absence of parents, especially mothers, have a negative effect on children's early development, and has been found to be one of the key factors contributing to cognitive delay.



Children living with their mothers usually receive better parenting and care. The involvement of both father and mother is even more beneficial for children.

Education of children and adolescents has significantly improved, but still facing challenges

**Compulsory
education
school age
Aged 6-14**



- ▶ Nine years of compulsory education has been achieved with universal access. The key focus now is on ensuring quality education.

**Senior
secondary
school age
Aged 15-17**



- ▶ The attendance rate in senior secondary school has reached 86%. The urban-rural disparity and the level itself, both need further improvement.



9.3 million children aged 7-17 are out of school. This includes 6.3 million children aged 15-17 years.